General Assembly

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Agenda item 10

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/60/L.53 and Add.1)*]

60/253. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recognizing that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[2] in particular paragraphs 6 and 24 thereof, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Recalling also its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994, 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998, 54/36 of 29 November 1999, 55/43 of 27 November 2000, 56/96 of 14 December 2001, 56/269 of 27 March 2002, 58/13 of 17 November 2003 and 58/281 of 9 February 2004,

Recalling further the declarations and plans of action of the five international conferences of new or restored democracies adopted in Manila in 1988, Managua in 1994, Bucharest in 1997, Cotonou in 2000 and Ulaanbaatar in 2003,

Recalling that the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which was held in Ulaanbaatar from 10 to 12 September 2003, focused on democracy, good governance and civil society,

Noting the results of the Parliamentarians' Forum convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Mongolia on the occasion of the Fifth

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

International Conference, and noting the follow-up work conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the field of enhancing parliamentary democracy,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance convened in 2004 and 2005, including those held under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Taking note of the views expressed by Member States in the debate on this question from the fifty-eighth to the sixtieth session,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization, good governance practices and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will be held in Doha from 30 October to 1 November 2006,

Stressing the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Sixth International Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] and invites Member States to consider the proposals contained therein;

2. *Invites* Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments, including in

[4] A/60/556.

collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other parliamentary organizations, and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up to the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, including through those steps set out in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society,[5] and to inform the Secretary-General of the actions taken;

3. *Recognizes* that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization and good governance within the context of their development efforts;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing coherent and adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization, including through the activities of the Democracy Fund at the United Nations;

5. *Stresses* that the activities of the Organization must be undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support efforts to consolidate democracy and good governance, and requests him to continue those activities;

7. *Welcomes* the work carried out by the follow-up mechanism of the Fifth International Conference and the efforts of the Chair of the Conference to make the Conference and the follow-up thereto more effective and efficient;

8. *Also welcomes* the comprehensive tripartite character (governments, parliaments, civil society) of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which will allow for greater interaction and cooperation in the common effort of promoting democracy;

9. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to promote the contribution by parliaments worldwide to democracy, including through the process of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and the upcoming Parliamentarians' Forum in Doha;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and good governance, including the provision of support to the President of the Fifth International Conference in his efforts to make the Conference and the follow-up thereto more effective and efficient;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information requested in paragraph 2 above;

[5] A/58/387, annexes I and II.

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

78th plenary meeting
2 May 2006